

SANFORD, DON ALONZO

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SANFORD, DON ALONZO, born at Honeoye Falls, Monroe County, New York, January 28, 1840; son of Thomas and Catherine Sanford, both natives of New York; married, Louise Jane Bloxton (1849-1920), daughter of Robert Nelson Bloxton and a native of Appamatox County, Virginia, at Tucson, A. T., October 5, 1875; children, Don Alonzo Jr., Etta (Mrs. Benjamin Stuart Garver), Amo Leona (Mrs. Frederick McKee), Mabel Rebecca (Mrs. Dr. Guy Lattimer) and Bertha Alpha (Mrs. Leroy Edward Miller).

First came to Arizona in 1862 with his elder brother, Denton G.; they later returned and settled in Pima County in the early Seventies to engage in cattle growing; the following warning notice was printed in the Tucson Arizona Citizen on January 2, 1875:

I hereby forbid any person or persons from buying, selling or having in possession any cattle branded thus: "D. S." as it is my own private brand, and I have never sold or disposed of any with said brand.

D.A.Sanford, Cienega, Pima County, Ariz.

The Yuma Arizona Sentinel of September 4, 1875, stated:

D. A. Sanford for some years a resident of Tucson, who has been on a visit to California, came in by his own private conveyance last Thursday, in company with J. B. Bloxton and sister, all on their way to Tucson. Mr. Sanford and Mr. Bloxton called upon us yesterday. They seem like staunch, earnest men, and just the kind for Arizona.

Listed, U. S. Census, 1880, a Cienega Valley, Pima County, A. T., with wife and 3 children, occupation - Stockman; a letter signed J. L. W. and addressed to the editor of the Tucson

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Arizona Star was printed in that newspaper on January 14, 1883:

There has been considerable said of late of the progressive elements coming into our city and no little reflection cast upon the old pioneers as to their now progressive tendencies. A little reflection will settle the question, that all or nearly all has been done by the moss backs of Tucson and Arizona. This refers to the country as well as to the settlements. As a striking evidence I would refer to one instance, that of D. A. Sanford the stockman.

This gentleman came to Arizona when there were many hardships to endure. Indians were dangerous, the country was sparsely settled, there were no railways. He rode in with no companion but his horse, from Colorado, over one thousand miles in twenty-one days on horse back, and camped alone every night except two and one of those he rode all night in company with a mail carrier, making into Socorro, on the Rio Grande just at daylight, having traveled one hundred and fifteen miles within twenty-four hours.

The Indians were killing settlers and travelers on every side and almost daily. He arrived here at a time when cattle were very cheap and knowing the profits in cattle raising he bought a band of cattle and put them upon what is known as the Stock Valley ranch and has continued energetically in the business ever since until the year 1882, when he had increased his herd until he probably had more than any other one person in the territory.

In the summer of 1882 he commenced selling and within ten months he had sold about \$135,000 worth of cattle including his ranch, and he still holds a ranch and about \$15,000 worth of cattle and \$4,000 or \$5,000 worth of horses; he also has a large amount of city property in Tucson, which was made from the same band of stock during his time here.

The Tucson Arizona Mining Index of February 9, 1884, had this to say about him:

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Don Sanford is Acting Mayor of Tucson. Mr. Sanford is one of our heaviest property owners, a man of hard common sense, and broad liberal views, than whom no better one could be found to fill important office of Mayor.

In June, 1891, the Star reported:

Don A. Sanford, returned Sunday from Phoenix where he has been making arrangements to place a lot of cattle on alfalfa pastures. Mr. Sanford has many good and encouraging words for the valley of the Salt.

He was again mentioned in that newspaper in January, 1897:

Don A. Sanford has returned to Tucson from the Sonoita, where he has been making a transfer of some of his lands and stock to eastern parties. Mr. Sanford says the cattle interests down in that section are good, and cattle are in splendid condition and the mining outlook was never better.

Shortly afterwards he moved to Washington, D.C., and bought a home at 330 Indiana Avenue, N. W., where he died on May 13, 1915, aged 75; buried in Rock Creek Cemetery; an obituary in the Tucson Star stated:

News of the death of Don A. Sanford, a former resident of Tucson, at Washington, D.C., was received yesterday in a telegram to ex-Governor Hughes of this city. He was a pioneer in Arizona 45 years ago. The cattle business carried on by Sanford, south of Pantano, increased in rapid proportions, and he also invested in Tucson property.

Mr. Sanford was County Supervisor and was also City Councilman for sometime. He also owned land and cattle in the Sonoita valley, near Patagonia, then embraced in Pima County.

About 25 years ago, after accumulating a large fortune, he and his wife made their home in Washington, where they became well known in society. Both Mr. and Mrs. Sanford were known

as among the most substantial and energetic of the early pioneers, and counted the leading citizens of the Territory among their friends.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

- U.S. Census - Monroe County, New York, 1850.
- The Great Register of Pima County, 1880-82.
- Statement by his daughter, Mrs. L. E. Miller.
- The Washington Evening Star, May 14, 1915, 7:8 (death notice).
- District of Columbia - Certificates of death, May 13, 1915 and August 24, 1920.
- The Arizona Daily Star, Tucson, January 14, 1883, 4:2; May 16, 1915, 4:2 (obituary).
- The Arizona Mining Index, Tucson, February 9, 1884.
- The Arizona Sentinel, Yuma, September 4, 1873, 3:2.
- The Arizona Republican, Phoenix, January 27, 1897, 4:1 (reprint from the Tucson Star).
- The Phoenix Herald, July 1, 1891, 1:2, (reprint from the Tucson Star).
- The Arizona Citizen, Tucson, May 16, 3:2, December 12, 1:4, and December 26, 1874, 3:2; January 2, 1875, 3:4.
- The Tucson Citizen, May 15, 1915, 2:2 (obituary).